

NEWS OF THE STAGE AND ITS PEOPLE

MISS CHARLOTTE WALKER'S summer season in Washington as the star of the stock company at the Belasco came to a close last night.

Miss Walker returned to Washington this summer after having appeared in New York for a year under the management of David Belasco in "The Warrent of Virginia." She was heartily welcomed by her many admirers here, and her season of four weeks has been a source of genuine pleasure to the patrons of the Belasco. The plays in which she has appeared have not made any great demands upon her emotional powers, but the roles have been admirably suited to her, and her work has further endeared her to Washington playgoers. Her repertoire consisted of "A Country Mouse," "Candida," "Arms and the Man," and "The Freedom of Suzanne." As a curtain raiser for "Arms and the Man," Miss Walker produced "The Vacuum," a one-act play by Preston Gibson, a Washington man, in which the author evinced much dramatic ability.

Miss Walker would doubtless have extended her engagement in the Capital, which was originally for only three weeks, had it not been for the financial difficulties in which Will Page, her manager, became involved through losses sustained in other cities.

Will A. Page, who managed both the Guy Standing and the Charlotte Walker stock companies in Washington this summer, announces that he will make a third venture in this field when he brings his Baltimore company to the Columbia on August 3. Mr. Page says that he has engaged the Columbia for five weeks. His company is now appearing in Baltimore, where "Zaza" was offered last week. This week the bill is "In the Bishop's Carriage."

The repertoire for the Washington season has not been announced.

Miss Hallett Kershaw is the star of the company.



Flashes from the Footlights

Adeline Genes received an ovation upon her return to London. The Prince of Wales attended her opening performance, and she was literally buried in floral gifts. The English papers are devoting columns of space to her reception in America, and to the little dancer's gratitude for the way in which she was taken to the hearts of the New York public.

Annie Russell is to be starred in "The Stronger Sex," and her husband, Oswald Yorke, will have an important role in the play. Maude Fealy appeared in the play with indifferent success last season. The plan to present Miss Russell in "The Stronger Sex" in London has not been abandoned. That will take place later.

Henry Arthur Jones, always a welcome visitor to these shores, will sail for America August 10. Tucked under his arm will be the manuscript of a brand-new comedy. Mr. Jones, although one of England's foremost playwrights, declares that he prefers that his plays receive their premieres in this country.

Henry W. Savage has obtained the rights to "The Cloven Foot," the Anglicized version of Franz Molnar's "Der Teufel," and will present the play next season with Edwin Stevens in the role of the Devil. A trial performance will be given in Hartford July 6. Three endings have been written for the play by Oliver Herford, the American adapter, and Savage hopes to find one in the three thoroughly pleasing to the public.

The New National now has the distinction of being the only Washington theater combating the hot weather. There has been no cessation in the splendid business, and the Aborns are already planning to carry the opera season well into August. Music, singing, and dancing have great drawing powers even when the thermometer is above 90.

Mrs. Fiske, who is en route to San Francisco, has been invited by the faculty of the University of California to address the student body at Berkeley. The university recently announced that Mrs. Fiske would be one of the members of the summer faculty. Mrs. Fiske has accepted the invitation, and during this week she will deliver the same address on the drama that she gave at Harvard University.

Phil Branson, the popular comedian of the Aborn company, will be given a reception on the stage of the New National this afternoon by the members of the company. Mr. Branson is one of the most popular of the Aborn comedians, and his popularity holds forth among his fellow players as strong as it does among the footlights.

Fanny Rice will be a star again next season. "At the French Ball," in which Miss Rice scored a distinct success some years ago, has been rewritten and will be used as the medium through which the comedienne will make the jump from the vaudeville house to the legitimate stage.

Nora Bayes has made so good in "The Follies of 1908" that, with the memory of her success in the 1907 version of the same title, Ziegfeld will star her at the end of the New York season of the "Follies." Miss Bayes recently became the wife of Jack Norworth, the vaudeville monologist.

Among the many telegrams for a bon voyage sent to Manager Harry Rapley was one from the executive staff of the New National. It was unique in itself and read: "We wish you just a little more than anyone else." It was sent to Pier 48, North river, and reached Mr. Rapley just as the Arabic was ready for the trip across.

Grace Hazard, the clever little Washington girl, who arranged her own act, "Five Feet of Comic Opera," is fast becoming a favorite on the other side.

Next week she will appear in Glasgow, after having made a big hit in London.

For the revival of "The Fortune Teller," which the Aborns have in contemplation, Miss Grace Orr Myers, and Miss Edith Bradford will return to the east. Miss Myers has been singing with the Aborn Opera Company at Providence and Rochester for nine weeks.

Bruce McRae has been engaged as leading man with Ethel Barrymore when she opens her season in "Lady Frederick," one of W. Somerset Maugham's new plays on which Charles Frohman has obtained an option.

Charles Klein has written a new play, the theme of which is said to deal with the methods of the police department in New York in administering the "third degree." The play is to be called "The Mischief Makers."

Marjorie Ramey and Lenna Dyer, the two "Littlest Girls" of the Aborn Opera Company, were photographed by afternoon, and they have been busy handing their pictures to many local admirers.

The New National is already in receipt of nearly a dozen contracts for next season's attractions. Several new plays will have their premieres at this theater, among them Frederic Thompson's production of "A Modern Cinderella," with Mabel Taliaferro.

Several members of the London Gaiety Company, including Gertrude Miller and James Blakeley, will be brought to America by Charles Frohman for the production of "The Girls of Gottenberg."

"The Girl Question," a new musical play which has been heralded as one of the successes of the season to come, will receive its premiere in New York August 3.

Sam Chip and Mary Marble, who were the bright particular stars of a summer opera company at Chase's several seasons back, will begin a limited vaudeville engagement at that house September 21.

Mme. Sembrich has purchased an estate on Lake Geneva and, it is said, will return there to live permanently at the end of her next opera season.

The Aborns are said to be arranging a sumptuous revival of "The Mikado," with a noted New York comedian for the role of Ko-Ko.

Margaret Mayo's latest play, "Comme ça va," will have its Eastern premiere at the Colonial Theater, Boston, August 31.

The interior decorations at the New Academy are progressing during the present month under the supervision of Manager Lyons.

Paul Gilmore, who will be the star in "The Boys of Company B" next season, sailed for Europe last Thursday on the Mauretania. He will be gone six weeks.

George M. Cohen and the company now supporting him in "The Yankee Prince" will begin a long engagement in Chicago September 7.

Edith Bradford will return to Washington for the revival of Victor Herbert's delightful opera, "The Serenade."

Walter Kelley, "The Virginia Judge," will begin a long engagement in London tomorrow night.

The return of Harold Blake to the Aborn cast will come as a delight to his many matinee girl admirers.

Alla Nazimova paid her first visit to Atlantic City's famous boardwalk last week.

Paul Armstrong is writing a play for Klaw and Erlanger's use entitled "In Time of Peace."



JEFF HEALY LUNA PARK

ATTRACTIONS AT THEATERS

THE memorable European and American comic opera success, "Erminie," with Pauline Hall in the title role, in which she became famous with the original cast, will be the offering of the Aborn Opera Company at the New National for the week beginning tomorrow evening. Miss Hall has been secured for the single week in her familiar role in this opera pursuant to the occasional policy of the Aborn management, of bringing various stars to appear in the roles in which they were formerly prominent. The coming presentation of "Erminie" will be a notable event from the fact that this is the first time in years that Miss Hall has returned to the title role, following her many successful starring tours in other operatic hits, and several seasons as a headline attraction in vaudeville. The attractiveness of the offering will be further heightened by the reappearance of a large number of popular artists of former Aborn casts. This list includes Huntington May, Phil Branson, Harold Blake, Sol Solomon, and Charles W. Meyer, and is appropriately blazoned as a "Return of the Favorites." Other artists, equally well selected, include George Kunkel, Carrie Reynolds, Hattie Arnold, Millie Murray, C. W. Phillips, and Dixie Crane.

"Erminie," like "Robin Hood," "The Fortune Teller," and other comic operas of the same high class, which Messrs. Aborn have revived in the past, is one of those works which have become known as comic opera classics, from the fact that they have never lost their irresistible charm through repetition, but instead, seem constantly to grow stronger in the affections of music lovers and amusement seekers in general. Its many gems of lyric construction and musical composition of the catchy and melodious sort, like the beautiful "Lullaby," "Jai Birds of a Feather," "A Soldier's Life," "That's What the Dicky Birds Say," the richly harmonious "Good Night" ensemble, the brilliantly original and tuneful gavotte in the second act, "A Woman's Dress," "The Band Will Play at Four," "Past and Future," "When Love Is Young," and others; as well as its charmingly romantic and original story, its great fund of comedy of the clean, natural and inoffensive kind, and other worthy qualities, have placed "Erminie" in the class of comic operas that will never cease to be admired. Messrs. Aborn are presenting it in all of the cities of their circuit by arrangement with Francis Wilson, with a duplicate of the original Wilson production of scenery and costumes.

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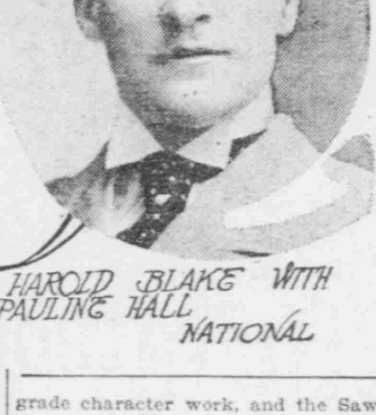
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GLEN ECHO PARK.

Glen Echo Park has proved such an interesting resort that a day seldom passes when there are not both family parties and one or two of Washington's representative organizations on the grounds. From early morning until late at night Glen Echo has a large number of children in attendance.

This has suggested the idea to L. D. Shaw, the proprietor of Glen Echo Park, of having a "Children's Day" in the near future. Mr. Shaw wants to see all his little friends at the park at one time, when all the amusements will be thrown open to them free of charge, and there will be games, pranks, and frolics such as only juveniles delight in. Mr. Shaw is making arrangements whereby the day is to be happily apportioned. There will be a time for everything.

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HAROLD BLAKE WITH PAULINE HALL NATIONAL

INTERESTING CAREER OF PAULINE HALL

Pauline Hall, who appears in Washington this week, began her remarkable line of successes with the instantaneous hit she made in the original cast of "Erminie," when she was only a young, inexperienced girl. She and Francis Wilson divided the stellar honors in her appearance and claims Erminie's hand. The thieves are put under arrest, and but for Erminie's intervention would be sent to prison. But she being of a forgiving nature, they are released and all ends happily.

The second act takes place in the Chateau de Fonvert, where a grand ball is given in honor of Erminie's birthday. There Cadeaux meets the Princess Grapenneau, and has all manner of fun with her. He wears the marquis's clothes, which are much too big for him, and a source of great amusement to the guests assembled.

Cadeaux gets Ravennes into all manner of complications, but the latter being a man of the world, easily extricates himself.

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Act three shows the ancestral hall with the guest chambers in the background. A number of complications ensue from Cadeaux getting into the princess's room by mistake. The Chevalier, who has been roaming around unable to sleep, is caught at the princess's door and accused of trying to force his entrance to her apartments. In the meantime Ravennes and Cadeaux have been assisting Erminie to elope with the secretary, Ravennes previously having agreed to release her on condition that the papers in Captain Delaune's hands are kept from the marquis, so that they, the two thieves, may escape in the meantime. Matters are rapidly coming to a crisis, the climax being reached when the real Viscount de Brissac puts in his appearance and claims Erminie's hand. The thieves are put under arrest, and but for Erminie's intervention would be sent to prison. But she being of a forgiving nature, they are released and all ends happily.

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Story of "Erminie"

Erminie, daughter of the marquis, has been, from her infancy, betrothed to Viscount Ernest de Brissac, son of a staunch friend of the marquis. Erminie, who has never seen this viscount, has bestowed her affections upon Eugene, her father's private secretary. To-day being her birthday, her father has arranged for the meeting with the viscount, who, while en route, is waylaid by two notorious thieves, Ravennes and Cadeaux. He is stripped of his clothing and valuables, and he has never been seen here since childhood. Ravennes, the more genteel thief of the two impostors, is the viscount and is presented to Erminie as her affianced husband, much to her, as well as Eugene's chagrin.

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Hammerstein Lays Cornerstone Of Philadelphia Opera House



OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN, Trowel in Hand, as Philadelphia's New Home of Opera Is Begun.

With characteristic dispatch and absence of formality, Oscar Hammerstein, the famous impresario, laid the cornerstone of the new Philadelphia Opera House last Thursday.

A unique feature of the ceremony was the placing in the cornerstone of a number of talking machine records by famous artists. By preserving their voices in this manner the great impresario paid a graceful tribute to his star singers.

The records include the mad scene from "Lucia di Lamermoor," sung by both Melba and Tetrazzini; the "Habenera," from "Carmen," by Calve; the Flower Song from "Carmen," by Dalmore; Massenet's "Noel Paen," by Renaud; a record by Zenetello, and one by Sammarco. Photographs of Oscar Hammerstein, Melba, Tetrazzini, Campanini, Eva Tetrazzini Campanini, Calve, Dalmore and Mary Garden were also put in the cornerstone along with data concerning the erection of the building signed by Oscar Hammerstein.

The document, records, and photographs were placed in an airtight copper box. At a signal, the marble cornerstone—which was hollowed out underneath to receive the box—was lowered, and Oscar Hammerstein, using a gold trowel and hammer, tapped the stone into place and put the finishing touches to the cement around the edges, thereby insuring the preservation of the priceless voice records for an indefinite period.

Practically simultaneous with the laying of the cornerstone was the erection of the first steel column. Hammerstein declares that the new opera house, which is to be among the most palatial structures of its kind in the world, will be opened to the public on November 17, 1908.

MRS. WALDECKER PRESENTS PUPILS IN CONCERT TOMORROW NIGHT AT CARROLL INSTITUTE.

Mrs. M. R. Waldecker will present her students in a concert at Carroll Institute tomorrow night. The Marine Band and a group of soloists will be the assistant artists. Among the latter will be Miss Dietrich, soprano; Ralph Coleman, tenor, and Harry P. Wilkins, tenor.

The concert promises to be one of the most interesting ever given by Mrs. Waldecker's class.

DALYS CONTINUE CLASSES.

Mme. J. Espueta-Daly and her son Norman will remain in Washington and continue their classes through July.

The second evening of the annual recital by the pupils of William J. Oates was given Thursday, in Pythian Temple.

Among the pupils who participated in the program were Miss Lily Loughery, Miss Pauline Laxow, Miss Rose Purnell, Miss Mildred Easterling, Miss Katherine O'Connell, Miss Helen Bell, Miss Lillian Welsburg, Miss Mary Donnelly, Miss Grace Hutchinson, Miss Edna Lerch, Miss Volga Hayworth, Miss Helen Benzel, Miss Ethel Lyons, Miss Bessie Walter, Miss Ida Cohen.

Miss Cecelia Hope, Miss Ethel Brockman, Miss Mabel Louise Vrooman, Miss Emily Iltigan, Miss Bessie Hattigan, Miss Belle Taylor, Miss Annie Cohen, Miss Grace Sturgis, Harold Vermeule, and Leo McDonald.

PUPILS' RECITAL.

The annual recital by the pupils of Mme. B. G. Keith and Miss R. Beatrice Keith was given last Tuesday evening in Typographical Hall.

The program was played delightfully and the young students received generous applause for their work.